

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Carson City District Office
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Project Lead: J. Hufnagle

Field Office: Sierra Front

Lead Office: Sierra Front

Case File/Project Number: NVN 046490 ROW Amendment

Applicable Categorical Exclusion (cite section): 516 DM 11.9 E. Realty (16) Acquisition of easements for an existing road or issuance of leases, permits, or rights-of-way for the use of existing facilities, improvements or sites for the same or similar purposes.

NEPA Number: DOI-BLM-NV-2011-C020-0515-CX

Project Name: Lyon County Rawe Peak Communication Site ROW Amendment

Project Description: Lyon County has applied for an amendment to their existing communication site ROW authorization to allow for improvements to County communication facilities already existing on the Rawe Peak Communication Site; a developed site for a variety of communication uses. The County is proposing to replace a current wood pole guyed-tower (approximately 60 feet in height) with a self-supporting steel tower approximately 80 feet tall. The tower would have a four leg base approximately 12 feet square. In addition, the County is proposing to install a new equipment building 12 feet by 15 feet by 11 feet to accommodate existing and upgraded communication equipment. The County has provided an updated site plan that shows enlarged site boundaries as well as existing and the proposed facilities described above, including a portion of the existing access road. The site has been disturbed during previous activities associated with the construction and installation of communication facilities.

Applicant Name: Lyon County

Project Location: T. 15 N., R. 22 E., sec. 2, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$.

BLM Acres for the Project Area: Site: 120 feet x 120 feet – 0.33 acres
Access: 3,016.84' x 100'

Land Use Plan Conformance (cite reference/page number): **Lands and Realty Administrative Actions 3.** All applicants for right-of-way grants, whether or not they are within corridors, are subject to standard approval procedures as outlined in the right-of-way regulations. (43 CFR 2802)/ROW - 4

Name of Plan: NV – Carson City RMP.

Screening of Extraordinary Circumstances: The following extraordinary circumstances apply to individual actions within categorical exclusions (43 CFR 46.215). The BLM has considered the following criteria:

(Specialist
review:
initial in
appropriate box)

<i>If any question is answered 'yes' an EA or EIS must be prepared.</i>		YES	NO
1. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on public health or safety? (project lead/P&EC)			gjt
2. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (EO 11990); floodplains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds (EO 13186); and other ecologically significant or critical areas? (wildlife biologist, hydrologist, outdoor recreation planner, archeologist)			gjt ADC nc
3. Would the Proposed Action have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA 102(2)(E)]? (project lead/P&EC)			gjt
4. Would the Proposed Action have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks? (project lead/P&EC)			gjt
5. Would the Proposed Action establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects? (project lead/P&EC)			gjt
6. Would the Proposed Action have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects? (project lead/P&EC)			gjt
7. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the NRHP as determined by the bureau or office? (archeologist)			gjt
8. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the list of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species? (wildlife biologist, botanist)			AS /AS
9. Would the Proposed Action violate federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment? (project lead/P&EC)			gjt
10. Would the Proposed Action have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EA 12898)? (project lead/P&EC)			gjt
11. Would the Proposed Action limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 13007)? (archeologist)			gjt
12. Would the Proposed Action contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and EO 13112)? (botanist)			AS

SPECIALISTS' REVIEW: During ID Team consideration of the above Proposed Action and extraordinary circumstances, the following specialists reviewed this CX:

Jo Ann Hufnagle, Realty Specialist
Arthur Callan, Outdoor Recreation Planner
Nicki Cutler, Hydrologist
Jim Carter, Archaeologist
Pilar Ziegler, Wildlife Biologist/BLM Sensitive Species - Wildlife
Dean Tonenna, Botanist - Natural Resource Specialist/BLM Sensitive Species - Plants
Brian Buttazoni, Planning & Environmental Coordinator

Although BLM Sensitive Species is not described in one of the 12 extraordinary circumstances question, review of the applicability of this CX has taken them into consideration.

CONCLUSION: Based upon the review of this Proposed Action, I have determined that the above-described project is a categorical exclusion, in conformance with the LUP, and does not require an EA or EIS. A categorical exclusion is not subject to protest or appeal.


DECISION: It is my decision to implement the action, as described, and approve the ROW amendment. The amendment should include the following special stipulation:

All above-ground structures not subject to safety requirements shall be painted by the holder to blend with the natural color of the landscape. The paint used shall be a color which simulates "Standard Environmental Colors" June 2008. The colors selected for this site are Carlsbad Canyon or Shadow Gray. (Color chart is attached.)

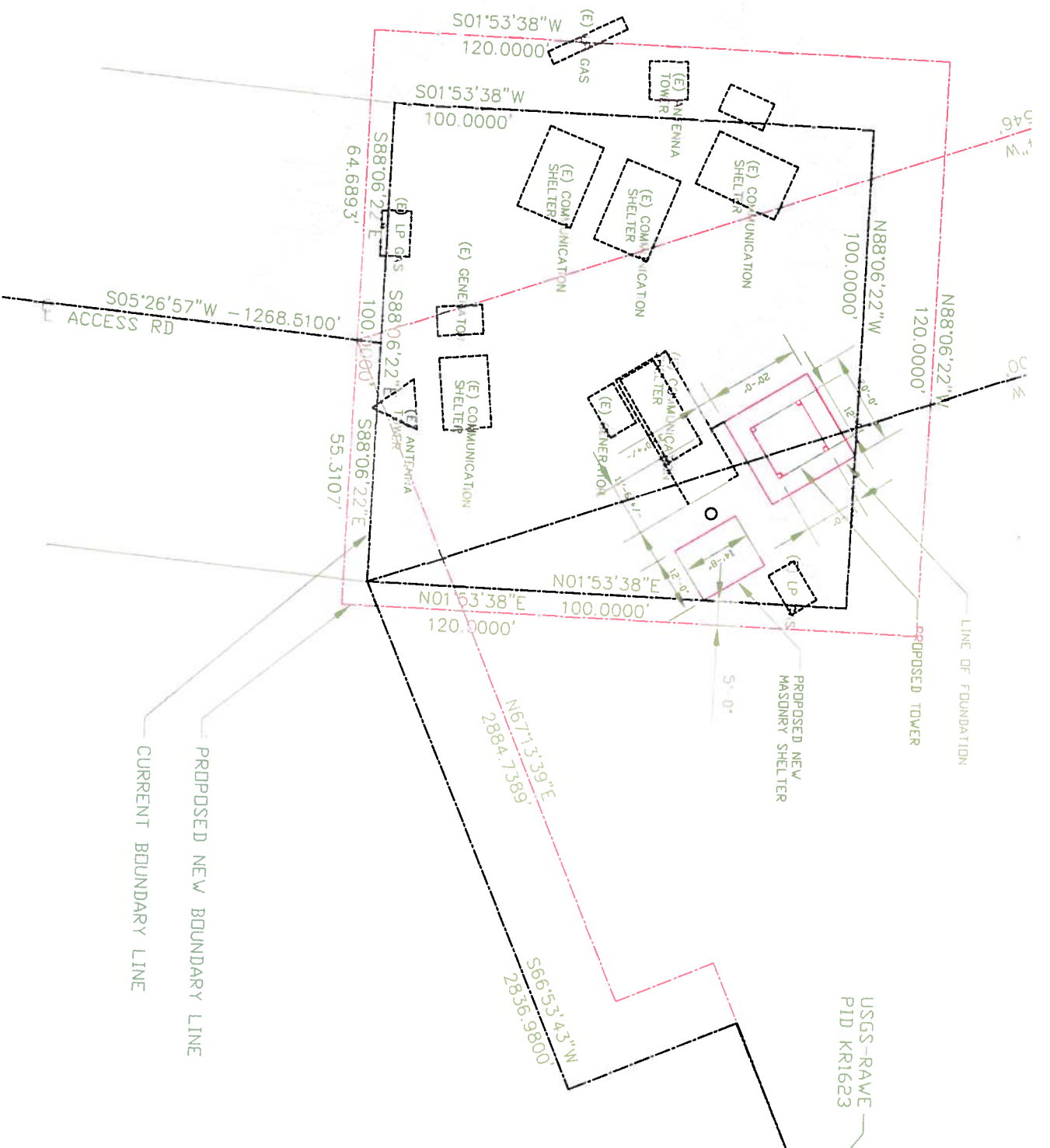
The amendment should reference the revised site plan dated 8/18/2011 as a grant exhibit.

In addition, the amendment should contain appropriate language to supersede standard stipulation 5 of the original grant which prohibits subleasing and should include appropriate current language to allow subleasing authority. Lyon County has been leasing to non-county entities for several years and has reported this information in annual reports to BLM. BLM's current policy is to encourage subleasing.

Approved by:


James W. Schroeder
Acting Field Manager
Sierra Front Field Office

10/4/2011
(date)

USGS-RAWE
PID KR1623

ENLARGED SITE PLAN



Rawe Peak – Lyon County Communication Site
NVN 046490
September 7, 2011



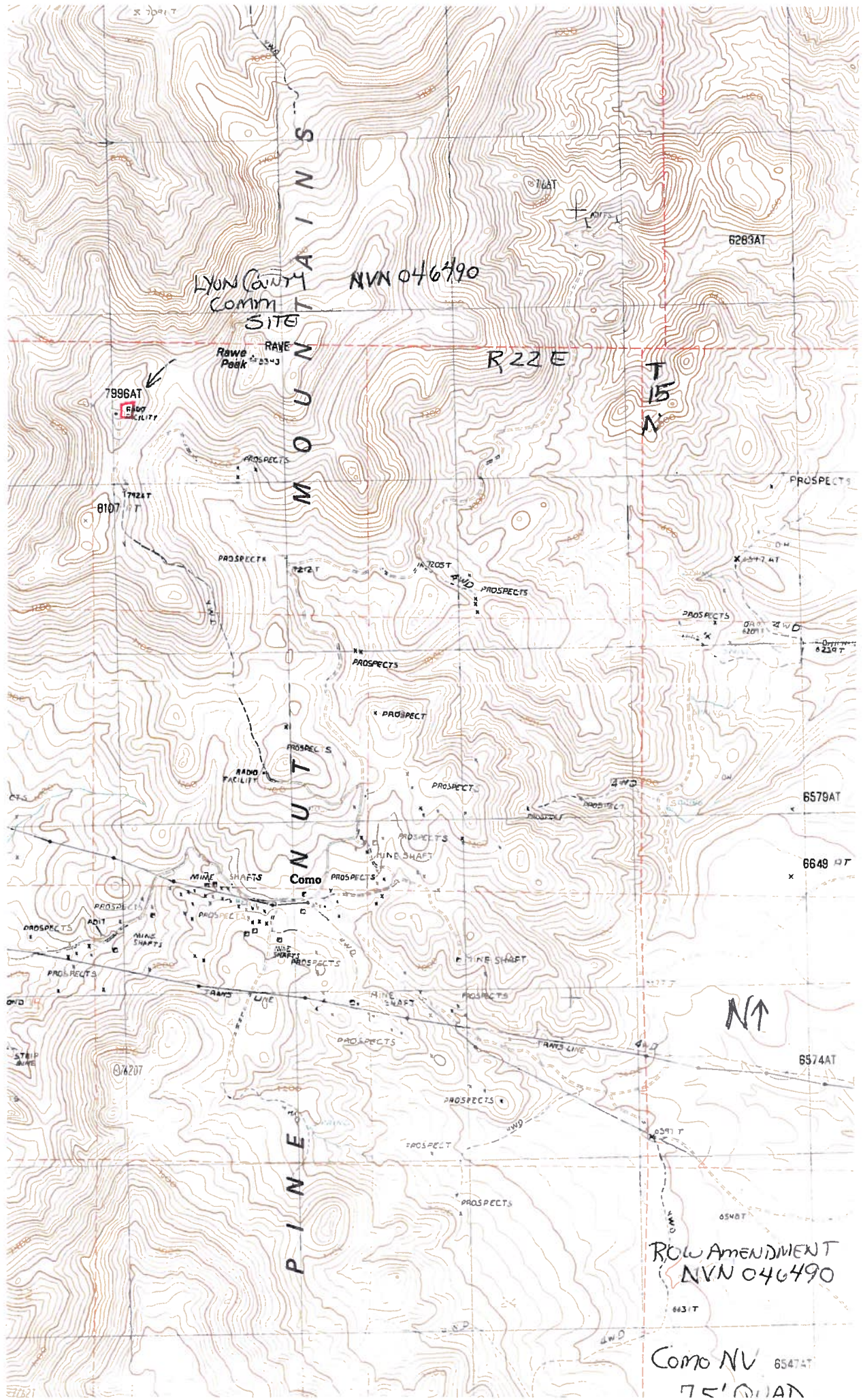
New building to be installed in disturbed area shown in foreground of photograph.



New tower will be placed on concrete footings.



Access to tower area



LYON County
Comm SITE

NVN 046490

R22E

T15N

7996AT

RAVE
Peak

8107

MOUNTAIN PINES

Como

N↑

ROW AMENDMENT
NVN 046490

Como NV 8547AT
75' DIAM